

REMARKS

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as failing to show the feature of the second resin layer being configured to be in contact with the liquid crystal. In particular, the Examiner asserts paragraph [0065] and FIG. 4 for teaching that the vertical alignment layer can cover the second resin layer. Although the Examiner's interpretation of FIG. 4 and the related description in Applicants' Specification is correct, Applicants traverse the rejection because the above-identified features are shown in FIG. 24 of the present Application.

More specifically, the claims of the present Application are directed to the Embodiment 2-2 shown in FIG. 24. Embodiment 2-2 is directed to a liquid crystal display. (See Applicants' Specification, page 33). As can be seen in FIG. 24, an alignment layer being formed on the columnar spacers 30 is not taught with respect to this embodiment. Moreover, embodiment 2-1 further describes that alignment films are formed on surfaces of the substrates 8 and 10 and then rubbed. Next, the sealant is applied and spacers are dispersed. Thus, Applicants' Specification teaches spacers being dispersed after alignment films are formed. (See Applicants' Specification page 32, line 12). Applicants respectfully submit that in the embodiment shown in FIG. 24 of the present Application the spacers do not have alignment films formed thereon. For this reason, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 23, 28, 31-32, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lien et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,050). In response, Applicants amended independent claim 23 to clarify that the color filter layer is formed of a plurality

of different color layers, and that both the second resin layer and each of the different color layers are configured to be in contact with the liquid crystal, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Lien shows in FIG. 11B a pair of substrates 302, 304 that have a CF layer 306 and a liquid crystal material 101 therebetween. A CF stack 312 and a depositing layer 320 form a spacer between the substrates. The depositing layer 320 prevents each of the layers of the CF stack 312 from contacting the liquid crystal. Thus, Lien fails to disclose or suggest a columnar spacer having laminated resin layers including a resin color filter layer provided with a plurality of different color layers and a second resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin, wherein both the second resin layer and each of the different color layers of the resin color filter layer are configured to be in contact with the liquid crystal, as now recited in amended claim 23. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of independent claim 23 and its respective dependent claims 28, 31-32 and 34-36 is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-27 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lien in view of Kadota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,550) or Kurematsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,318). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the §103(a) rejection of independent claim 23.

The deficiencies of Lien are noted above. Kadota fails to overcome the deficiencies of Lien. Kadota is merely cited for disclosing that a second substrate 12 can be thinner than a first substrate 0. Similarly, Kurematsu also fails to overcome the deficiencies of Lien. Kurematsu is cited for disclosing an alkaline glass can be formed in

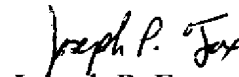
a LCD device. Therefore, since Kadota and Kurematsu fail to overcome the deficiencies of Lien, any combination of these references fails to disclose or suggest the features of amended claim 23, and in particular a columnar spacer formed of a resin color filter layer in the second resin layer, wherein the second resin layer and the resin color filter layer formed of a plurality of different color layers are both in contact with the liquid crystal. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections of claims 25-27 and 33 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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